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direction! What infinite mischiefs to the whole of humanity such a war as that in the Far East carries with it!

Editorial Notes.

Neutral Zones on the Atlantic.

We call special attention to the address, printed on another page, of the Massachusetts State Board of Trade to the Commercial bodies of the United States and Europe, proposing the neutralization of the great trade routes on the Atlantic. This Board is one of the most important trade organizations in the country, being composed of representatives of forty-six Boards of Trade, in as many cities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The action taken by this body was in no sense hasty or inconsiderate. Several weeks were taken for the thorough study of the subject. The resolution was passed on the 17th of January. The matter was then placed in the hands of the gentlemen whose names are signed to the document to prepare a statement to be sent with the resolution to the various commercial bodies throughout the nation, and to the Senate of the United States, the President and the Secretary of State. The address speaks for itself, and we do not need to present any considerations to show the immense importance of the proposition. In a recent editorial we gave our view of the whole subject. What these practical business men propose is not something new; it is merely that the principle of neutralization, already successfully applied to certain states and waters, be extended to these zones of the Atlantic over which so large a portion of the commerce of the world at the present time passes. They are international highways, and they ought to be neutralized in the common interests of the world. We feel sure that the proposition will meet with large endorsement by the business organizations of the world.

World's Congress Memorials.

The following editorial note from the *Christian Endeavor World* shows how deep a hold the proposition for the creation of a Regular Congress of the Nations is taking upon the minds of the young men and women of the country. Among the great weeklies the *Christian Endeavor World*, with its able and progressive editor, Amos R. Wells, is now one of the leaders in promoting the organization of the world on a Christian and rational basis.

"The Christian Endeavor societies have expressed themselves in no undecided fashion regarding the great project of a World's Congress. Our memorials, petitioning the Senate and House 'to authorize the President to invite the governments of the world to join in establishing an international congress, to meet at stated periods to deliberate upon questions of common interest to the nations, and to make recommendations thereon to the

governments,' have been forwarded to Washington, and have been laid before Congress. The memorials addressed to the Senate were presented by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, the well-known historian, senior Senator from Massachusetts. Those addressed to the House were presented by Congressman Samuel W. McCall, one of the leading Representatives of the Old Bay State.

"Altogether, 1,642 memorials went to each branch of Congress. These represented at least 100,000 Christian Endeavorers. How widespread was the interest shown may be seen from the following table, which shows the number of memorials sent by the several States.

Alabama	12	Nevada	3
Alaska	2	New Hampshire....	28
Arizona	4	New Jersey	64
Arkansas	10	New Mexico	2
California	64	New York	177
Colorado	23	North Carolina	3
Connecticut	41	North Dakota	10
Delaware	3	Ohio	127
District of Columbia..	53	Oklahoma	11
Florida	8	Indian Territory....	2
Georgia	5	Oregon	14
Idaho	5	Pennsylvania	179
Illinois	104	Rhode Island	6
Indiana	55	South Carolina	4
Iowa	62	South Dakota	10
Kansas	57	Tennessee	7
Kentucky	8	Texas	10
Louisiana	9	Utah	2
Maine	33	Vermont	25
Maryland	14	Virginia	6
Massachusetts	130	Washington	27
Michigan	59	West Virginia	7
Minnesota	46	Wisconsin	28
Mississippi	1	Wyoming	1
Missouri	39	Hawaii	3
Montana	4	Porto Rico	1
Nebraska	33	Assiniboia	1

"Of course, no one expects Congress to take at once the action desired. Probably when the legislature of Massachusetts, in both branches, by a unanimous vote made the same request, they hardly expected Congress to take action.

"But all such expressions of the opinion of the nation must influence Congress. They influence the nation also. A few more thousand memorials, from other organizations of national extent, and Congress will conclude that the People, the all-powerful People, really want this thing; that they are tired of International Anarchy, and are ready for the Reign of Law among the nations of the world."

About the middle of February the *Em-moscow Women's Appeal to Czar*. press of Russia received from the women of Moscow an address appealing to her, as a woman and a mother, to use her influence with the Emperor to put an end to the war in the East. The petition says:

"Oh sovereign, we believe your mother's heart feels all the horrors of war as we do. All the bases of life are shaken, and all the moral foundations are trembling. Mothers who have to bring up the young generation are saddened by seeing that it is impossible to train up children on the basis of truth, love and duty when the social life of the country does not rest thereon. Our

best forces are perishing. Mothers whose hearts are breaking cannot remain silent. More lives will be sacrificed because what is happening is not spasmodic, but the result of earlier calamities. If the Emperor leads the country in paths of greatness, its women will help in the work of organization by guiding their brothers and children into the new way and a life of light."

The petition, as is seen, is couched in the most prudent and diplomatic terms. But it manifests, in language which could scarcely be made more noble, a world of pain and suffering bordering on the verge of utter despair. "All the bases of life are shaken, and all the moral foundations are trembling." What these Moscow women mean is that their husbands, brothers and sons are being torn away from them to be sacrificed on the altar of the cruel and heartless god of war; that their homes are being wrecked; that their hopes for future comfort and happiness are being blasted; and that the war spirit is degrading the people morally and introducing everywhere a reign of lawlessness. Under these conditions the women feel that their "best forces are perishing," that they can do nothing for the good and greatness of the country, either in bearing children or in attempting to train them in a "life of light," "on the basis of truth, love and duty." This piteous cry of the Moscow women, which voices the stifled feelings of multitudes of other women all over the empire, ought to be echoed and reëchoed by women all over the world, not simply with the view of putting an end to the war now going on, but of making any future war anywhere impossible.

Complete Arms of a Christian! In an essay on the Japanese an English school-boy recently wrote the following remarkable sentence: "*Until recently the Japanese used to fight with bows and arrows, but now they are equipped with the complete arms of a Christian.*" One does not know which to deplore the more, the fact that the Japanese have plunged headlong into modern militarism and armed themselves with all the most deadly and costly implements of human slaughter made possible by modern scientific progress, or that a school-boy from an English home should still be found with so absolutely false a conception of the simplest elements of Christianity as to write the above sentence. England has been for fifteen centuries under the influence of Christian teaching, and yet it seems that there are families within her borders whose ideas and feelings have been so little touched by the teachings of Jesus that they are still darkly and crudely pagan. The case would not be so bad if it were only raw English school-boys who were capable of uttering such sentiment as that cited above. We greatly fear that this small boy is only going in the way in which he has been trained by parental utterances, or possibly by expositions and exhortations

from the pulpit of the neighboring church. It is well known that within the last decade Englishmen high up in both church and state have uttered sentiments as crudely and flagrantly un-Christian as if the Gospel had never crossed to English shores. The same is true of more than one other country. Christendom, in many parts of it at any rate, is in sore need of being Christianized.

A Practical Example.

Many persons hold principles in theory which they are very slow to put in practice, particularly when the making of money is in one scale of their mental balance. It is refreshing to find now and then persons who hold what are considered ultra views ready without hesitation to live up to them even in times of unexpected temptation. Some time ago a firm of manufacturers of leather goods in Philadelphia received a letter from a naval contractor asking for prices of their goods which he wished to use in the construction of warships. The firm replied as follows:

"Replying to thy inquiry for price on belt for the navy department, we would say that as members of the Society of Friends we are advocates of peace, and feel that it is more consistent with our principles not to attempt to make money by selling it to the war and navy departments. We are naturally glad to do business, and would say that this is purely a question of principle with us."

It is well known that the war in the Far East is kept up through the sale of materials to the belligerents by firms of manufacturers in the nations which profess to be strictly neutral. If these firms had a little of the conscience and moral backbone possessed by the aforesaid Quaker leather-goods manufacturers of Philadelphia in regard to the wickedness and inhumanity of war, we should have no need to be invoking the mediation of the non-belligerent powers to put a stop to the ghastly tragedy in the East of which nearly the entire civilized world is heart-sick. The great syndicates of money-lenders and the manufacturers of war materials in this and other countries have it within their power to force the cessation of hostilities between Russia and Japan within a comparatively brief period. If they have never thought of their responsibility in the matter, it is high time they should begin to do so.

Twenty-second of February.

The 22d of February was again observed this year by a number of the peace societies of Europe as a day for a united manifestation in behalf of the cause of peace. The identical resolution adopted by the various meetings was as follows:

"The present assembly, met at _____ on this peace day, proclaims anew as its leading aim and its

raison d'être the substitution of law and international order in place of international anarchy and the brutalities of war. It declares itself strongly opposed to the current belief that the existing armaments which weigh so heavily on all the nations are necessary for defense. It believes, on the contrary, that they are maintained especially that they may serve the interests of the dominant powers — autocrats or plutocrats. It is in the name of justice, impartial and equally accessible to all, that the present gathering denounces the use of brute force and coercion in international disputes, and pledges itself to labor incessantly with a view to the reduction and final disappearance of standing armies and fleets in all countries."

The seventeenth annual report of Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey, Superintendent of the Peace Department of the W. C. T. U.

Peace Department W. C. T. U. which we did not have room to notice in our last issue, presents a report of good work done in the twenty-eight States in which the W. C. T. U. has organized peace departments. Of the States organized and having superintendents reports were received from New York, California, New Jersey, Ohio, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Arkansas, Iowa, Virginia, South Dakota, North Dakota, Illinois, Rhode Island, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maine, Kansas, Maryland, Indiana. The superintendents in these States had distributed large quantities of literature, in New York alone more than a million pages having been given out. Lectures have been given, sermons preached, parlor meetings held, Bible readings given, peace cards distributed, etc. Several of the superintendents had attended the Boston Peace Congress and carried back to their States the inspiration of the great gathering. Most of the superintendents report a deeper interest in the cause in their States than ever before. The work of the department is particularly effective among women and children. In addition to giving details of the work of the department, Mrs. Bailey's report presents a summary of the general peace work of the year. Progress in the movement she considers to have been most encouraging. She recommends to local superintendents for the coming year the special study of (1) the immense monetary waste of war; (2) its demoralizing influence and danger in the way of race deterioration; (3) the awful suffering and hardening of heart which it involves; and (4) its inadequacy to secure justice.

Brevities.

The official stenographic report of the Boston Peace Congress has been published, and a copy sent to each person who enrolled as a member of the Congress. Copies can be had at the office of the American Peace Society by any one who will send ten cents to cover postage.

. . . A diplomatic conference of admiralty experts from all the maritime nations of the world met at Brussels on the 21st of February. The United States is represented in the Conference by Justice W. W. Goodrich of Brooklyn. The delegates have been given authority to formulate a treaty between the maritime nations on the subject of collisions and salvage.

. . . A parcels-post treaty between this country and Great Britain was signed at Washington, February 17, by President Roosevelt, Secretary Hay and Postmaster-General Wynne. It had been previously signed by the British officials, and will go into effect on April 1.

. . . The Franco-Venezuelan claims commission, for the adjudication of the French claims against Venezuela, has continued its sittings at Northfield, Vt., during the month of February. A number of the claims have been vigorously contested by the Venezuelan Commissioner, Dr. José de J. Paul.

. . . The Kansas State Peace Society held its annual meeting in the Friends' University at Wichita on the 22d of February. Rev. Wm. J. Martindale, D. D., gave an address on Disarmament, and Rev. Daniel H. Switzer on Pacific Alliances and their results.

. . . Mr. James C. Carter, the distinguished member of the New York bar, who died on the 14th of February, was in 1892 appointed by President Harrison, with E. J. Phelps and H. W. Blodget, as counsel for the United States before the Bering Sea tribunal which met in Paris and adjudicated the dispute between this country and Great Britain. His services before the tribunal were considered of the very highest order.

. . . Diplomatic relations between this country and Colombia are to be renewed. The Colombian government has appointed Diego Mendoza, a prominent public man, as Minister to the United States, and he will reach Washington in a few weeks.

. . . The British navy estimates for 1905-6 are \$166,945,000 as against \$184,445,000 for the current year, a reduction of about seventeen and a half millions. The admiralty proposes during the year to build one battleship, four armored cruisers, eighteen torpedo-boat destroyers, and eleven submarine boats.

. . . Secretary Hay has formally assured the Haytian Minister at Washington that the United States has no intention whatever of acquiring by annexation or otherwise possession of Hayti or San Domingo, or of any other territory in that region.

. . . Secretary Hay has proposed to Count Cassini, Russian ambassador at Washington, to transmit to his government a project for the holding of a conference of the powers to discuss questions relative to the violation of Chinese neutrality by the belligerents in the Russo-Japanese war.

. . . Since the North Sea Commission made its report the British government has presented claims against Russia to the amount of \$325,000, for the damages done by the firing of the Russian warships upon the fishing-boats off Dogger Bank. It is expected that the Russian government will pay these claims at once without question.